

Message Text

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64/43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 SAM-01 /075 W

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P 010700Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL ADANA

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 986

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADANA 0230

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 0230 VICE 3047)

EO 11652: NA; TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: SENATE ELECTION OUTLOOK IN ADANA

1. WITH FOUR SENATE SEATS BEING CONTESTED, INCLUDING TWO NOW HELD BY THE JP. THE ADANA ELECTION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THIS PART OF TURKEY. NONE OF THE ADANA SENATE CANDIDATES IS A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FIGURE IN HIS OWN RIGHT, NOR ARE ANY CONTROVERSIAL. THUS THE ELECTION RESULTS HERE SHOULD BE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE CURRENT LOCAL STRENGTH OF EACH OF THE NATIONAL PARTIES. THE CANDIDATES THEMSELVES ARE ALREADY ACTIVE, BUT SINCE AMONG MAJOR PARTY LEADERS ONLY ERBAKAN HAS YET MADE AN ADANA APPEARANCE IT IS

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TO EARLY TO MAKE A WELL-FOUNDED JUDGEMENT AS TO THE RELATIVE POPULARITY OF THE PARTIES. NEVERTHELESS, CERTAIN TRENDS ARE ALREADY CLEAR.

2. IN OUR VIEW ONLY THE RPP AND THE JP HAVE ANY CHANCE AT WINNING SEATS HERE. THE ONLY QUESTION IS HOW THE FOUR SEATS WILL BE DIVIDED? THE LOCAL RPP ORGANIZATION SAYS THEY HAVE TWO SEATS FOR
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SURE (AND THEY ARE PROBABLY CORRECT), AND HAVE EXCELLENT PROSPECTS

FOR OBTAINING A THIRD. THE JP, ON THE OTHER HAND, BELIEVES THEY CAN MAINTAIN THEIR TWO ADANA SEATS, BUT CONCEDE THEY HAVE LITTLE PROSPECT OF GAINING. THE DETERMINING FACTOR, AS WE SEE IT, WILL BE THE DISPOSITION OF THOSE VOTES THAT WENT LAST TIME TO THE NOW DISINTEGRATING DP AND RRP. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT MOST FORMER DP AND RRP VOTERS SWITCH TO THE JP, IT COULD BE IN GOOD SHAPE.

3. THE ADANA DP HAS FIELDDED A FULL SLATE OF CANDIDATES, AND IS CAMPAIGNING IN APPARENT EARNEST, BUT THE GENERAL FEELING HERE IS THAT THIS IS THE ORGANIZATION'S LAST CAMPAIGN AND THAT FOLLOWING AN EMBARRASING DEFEAT MOST REMAINING ADANA DP POLITICOS WILL GO OVER TO THE JP.

4. WELL-INFORMED SOURCES TELL US THAT THE ADANA BRANCH OF THE RRP HAS ACCEPTED GRACEFULLY, IF NOT ENTHUSIASTICALLY, THE MARRIAGE WITH

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THE JP, BUT EXPRESS SKEPTICISM AS TO THE RRP'S ABILITY TO TAKE THEIR FORMER VOTERS ALONG WITH THEM.

5. NO MAJOR CHANGE IS EXPECTED IN THE SHARE OF VOTES GOING TO THE NSP AND NAP, EACH OF WHICH POLLED 8 PER CENT OF THE ADANA ELECTORATE IN THE 1973 ELECTIONS. ERBAKAN'S SOLE CAMPAIGN VISIT HERE (ADANA 213), HOWEVER, SPARKED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM AND SOME FEEL THAT THE MSP HAS PEAKED HERE AND MAY WELL LOSE A FEW THOUSAND VOTES TO THE JP. THE NAP, HOWEVER, REMAINS A QUESTION MARK. IT HAS A SUBSTANTIAL, WELL-ORGANIZED LOCAL YOUTH FOLLOWING, BUT WITHOUT TURKES HIMSELF ON THE BALLOT IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS.

6. ECEVIT WILL COME TO ADANA ON OCT 3, DEMIREL ON OCT 10. WE WILL REPORT OUR LAST MINUTE IMPRESSIONS FOLLOWING THOSE VISITS.

JONES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION FORECASTS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADANA00230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750350-0166
From: ADANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751094/aaaadftv.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATE ELECTION OUTLOOK IN ADANA
TAGS: PINT, TU, JP, RPP
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006